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Olivier J. A. Schueller

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EXAMINER

SIMONE, CATHERINE A

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

ADVISORY ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. In regard to the rejection of claims 52 and 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), Applicant's arguments filed 5/21/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues "In Ohman, the liquid-impermeable seal is formed by sealing strips 5. Sealing strips 5 are not formed of a material essentially identical to that of the portion of the surface defining the indentations in component 1 of Ohman. Therefore, sealing strips 5 fail to qualify as protrusions as described in claim 52. In addition, the protrusions in Ohman referred to in the Office Action do not form a liquid-impermeable seal with component 8".

This argument is not deemed persuasive. Looking at Figures 6 and 7 in Ohman, it is to be pointed out that sealing strips 5 are placed in grooves 6 of polymeric component 1 and the second component 8 is then being pressed against component 1 to compress the sealing strips 5 bringing component 8 in mutual contact with component 1 (col. 6, lines 30-38). Figure 6 shows component 8 having grooves 9 to accommodate the sealing strips 5 when component 1 and component 8 are pressed together (also see claim 6). Thus, the sealing strips 5 of component 1 are being fitted with the grooves 9 of component 8 when the two components are pressed together, so components 1 and 8 are being held together by sealing strips 5, thereby forming a bond. Therefore, the sealing strips 5 are bonding component 1 to component 8. Accordingly, the protrusions of component 1 are being bonded to the surface of the second component 8. As a result, Ohman clearly teaches the protrusions being bonded to a surface of the second component, as required by independent claim 52.

Furthermore, it is to be pointed out that the sealing strips 5 provide leakage proof sealing means (col. 2, lines 20-25) between components 1 and 8. Thus, Ohman clearly teaches a liquid-impermeable seal therebetween, as required by independent claim 52.

Again, as shown in the previous 102 rejection, Ohman clearly teaches a plurality of protrusions. The previous Office Action illustrated the protrusions shown in Fig. 5. Those same protrusions are also shown in Fig. 9 of Ohman. However, sealing strips 5 are also being shown in Fig. 9. The sealing strips 5 are being placed between the protrusions of polymeric component 1 and therefore are separate from the protrusions. Accordingly, the protrusions are being made up of a single material, which is the same material as that of the intervening indentations. The polymeric component 1, which includes the protrusions and intervening indentations, is being made up of a single material (col. 4, lines 13-18), so the portions of the surface defining the indentations are deemed to be of a material essentially identical to that of the portions of the surface defining the protrusions. Thus, Ohman clearly teaches the portions of the surface defining the indentations being of material essentially identical to that of the portions of the surface defining the protrusions, as required by independent claim 52.

In view of the foregoing, Ohman teaches each limitation of claim 52. Thus, Ohman anticipates claim 52.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine Simone whose telephone number is (571) 272-1501. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/CAS/
Catherine A. Simone
Examiner, Art Unit 1794
May 26, 2009

/Alicia Chevalier/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794